



AUSTRALIAN  
FEDERATION  
OF ISLAMIC  
COUNCILS INC

# MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA (AFIC) PRESS RELEASE

## PRESIDENT

Ikebal Patel – 0409 775 102

## HEAD OFFICE

932 Bourke Street, Zetland  
Sydney NSW 2017  
PO BOX 7185 SSBH,  
Alexandria NSW 2015  
AUSTRALIA

**Tel: (02) 9319 6733**

Fax: (02) 9319 0159

admin@afic.com.au

[www.afic.com.au](http://www.afic.com.au)

## MELBOURNE OFFICE

66-68 Jeffcott Street West  
Melbourne VIC 3003  
AUSTRALIA

**Tel: (03) 9329 1228**

Fax: (03) 9329 1677

aficmelb@bigpond.com

## AFIC SCHOOLS

**Malek Fahd Islamic School**

Tel: (02) 9642 8766

Fax: (02) 9642 5479

**Malek Fahd Islamic School**

**Sydney Campus**

**Malek Fahd Islamic School**

**Liverpool Campus**

**Islamic School of Brisbane**

Tel: (07) 3841 3645

Fax: (07) 3841 4320

**Islamic College of SA**

Tel: (08) 8340 7799

Fax: (08) 8340 9988

**Langford Islamic College**

Tel: (08) 9458 5206

Fax: (08) 9258 5661

**Islamic School of Canberra**

Tel: (02) 6288 7358

Fax: (02) 6287 3517

**Islamic College of Melbourne**

Tel: (03) 8742 1739

- Halal Certification & Accreditation
- Muslims Australia Magazine
- Islamic Schools Projects
- Zakat & Charitable Services
- Imams & Religious Services
- Dawah Work
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Political Advocacy

## MEMBER STATE COUNCILS

Muslims NSW

Islamic Council of VIC

Islamic Council of QLD

Islamic Council of WA

Islamic Council of SA

Islamic Council of ACT

Islamic Council of NT

Islamic Council of TAS

Islamic Council of

Christmas Island

## MEMBER SOCIETIES

Over 100

**48 Years of Community  
Services**

9 Septemebr 2011

## **Off Shore Processing of Asylum Seekers**

Mr Ikebal Patel, President of Muslims Australia- AFIC observed that it is about time Australia matured as a country in deciding on its own shores who stays in Australia, rather than hand balling the decision making to some other country, as was the case in the early days of Australia with the mother land deciding on the fate of individuals coming to this great land.

Mr Patel said the case of people seeking asylum should not be allowed to become a hard fought rugby match between the political parties with the lives of the most vulnerable human beings being thrown in scrums to be mauled and rucked just for some cheap political point scoring. One can understand that with a parliament hanging in balance, the sight of the try line can be very tantalising, but this should also be a time when real leaders arise and show courage to ensure that their legacy will live on way beyond their term in office.

Mr Patel stated the need for secure borders is imperative, Australian security and customs agencies see to that adequately. Muslims Australia – AFIC calls upon the Government to abolish off shore processing and consider local measures to process people seeking asylum more expeditiously. He also calls on the government to seek remedies from within the communities, through community based organisations to offer those who present no security or other threats to the safety of Australia and its citizens to be assisted quickly so that people can get on with their lives and into meaningful employment.

As the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki Moon has rightly suggested, Australia can be a world leader in compassion with insignificant change to our overall refugee intake numbers. Rather than demonising these people, after appropriate health and security checks, some of these arrivals could be quickly employed in our struggling fruit and other regional industries which could turn this divisive issue into a positive and genuine attempt at solving this humanitarian crises as well as our labour shortage dilemma

Muslims Australia's –AFIC's views on people seeking asylum is clear and unambiguous – anyone who meets the criteria as identified by Australian Immigration authorities, who does not present a threat to society, abides by Australian law is a welcome citizen. After all, Australia is renown for its achievement as an open, welcoming, tolerant, vibrant and diverse religious and cultural community, so lets focus and embrace those who seek our compassion and support.

END.

*For further information, please contact:*

**MR. IKEBAL PATEL**

**President - Muslims Australia(AFIC) on 0409 775 102.**